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## MANUSCRIPT OF HOMER.

THE celebrated manuscript upon Papyrus, of a portion of Homer's Iliad, belonging to W. J. Bankes, Esq. M. P. for Cambridge University, has lately been brought to England. The MS. was discovered in the island of Elephantina, in Upper Egypt, by a French gentleman

travelling for Mr. Bankes. It is written in what are termed Uncial Letters, of the most beautiful form, and may probably be ascribed to the age of the Ptolemies. Much curiosity is excited in the literary world for the unrolling of this invaluable curiosity; it being, by many centuries, the oldest classical writing in existence.

## AGRICULTURAL REPORT, FOR MAY.

WE have enjoyed the pleasure of travelling through several parts of the counties of Down and Antrim, during the present month; and rejoicing as we do in the comforts of every living creature, our hearts have been making a perpetual offering of gratitude to "the Giver of all good." We would prescribe for all the sickly, and all the discontented, and all the evil-disposed of our species, a journey through the country, in this delightful weather; and if the freshness, the beauty, the happiness, the unbounded beneficence, everywhere displayed, do not pour health into the frame, and diffuse contentment and kindness through the heart, we are persuaded, that no human art can avail.

The prospects of the farmer are bright and promising, beyond precedent. Every thing is early, vigorous, and flourishing. The only apprehension which we entertain is for the *Wheats*. Should their present extreme luxuriance remain unchecked by a comparatively dry summer, they may fail to be either so healthy, or so productive as they promise at present. Should the kindness of Providence, however, be continued, and should He not see fit to chastise us for our follies and our crimes, "plenty will crown the harvest, and abundance gladden every heart."

We regret to observe, that the old and unprofitable system of *barren fallowing*, is still pursued, to a considerable extent. By this ruinous system, *two years' rent*, *two years' labour*, besides the expense of *manure*, are to be repaid by a *single crop*. Such a thing is unknown in England or Scotland. The process of fallowing is there carried on, whilst the manure and soil are producing a luxuriant crop of turnips, cabbages, or carrots, more than adequate to repay all expenses. Were our farmers to put their lime, and any other manure which they can spare, into drills, during the month of June, and to sow Aberdeen or Globe Turnip, they would have an abundant supply of most nutritious food for their cattle during the winter, and an astonishing increase of the best manure for the following season. The hoeing, weeding, and drilling of the turnips, during the summer, would effectually fallow the soil; and they could be removed sufficiently early to admit the sowing of wheat in due season. We would urge our Agricultural Friends to a trial of this plan; and we pledge ourselves, that they will not regret it.

Z.

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